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March 09, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

I have been fishing in Alaska the last 30 years and I have seen the size of the King Salmon species shrink over that time. I have caught several fish in the 70 lbs. range, but that was 15 years ago. The average fish size now is under 30 lbs. and it is heart wrenching. If we continue on this trajectory, the salmon species will be lost to the Kenai forever. What has been done to protect this precious species has fallen short and will not save this species from extinction.

The Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) is a higher threshold intended to not only halt salmon decline but also allow the fishery to recover. The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) is the absolute bare minimum number of fish needed for the species to survive and does nothing to improve the fishery. Ultimately, if Proposal 283 is passed, survival of the king salmon fishery in the Kenai River is further threatened.

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

The standard should remain that meeting the conservation needs of the weakest stocks is more important than avoiding the upper limit of another species. Passing 283 would indicate that the Board has abandoned weak-stock management principles.

Currently ADF&G cannot reduce fishing restrictions until the OEG is achieved. If passed, Proposal 283 would allow projected escapements to be utilized rather than actual fish in the river. It's literally putting the cart before the horse; commercial fishing will be permitted before sufficient king salmon have actually made it into the river, based on the OEG.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

RJ Forte

Draper  
84020



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February 17, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

The economy of the Kenai Peninsula relies on its salmon fisheries. However, the economics point to the sport-caught fisheries being the economic powerhouse, NOT the commercial fishery. Regardless, we need to rebuild the king salmon runs to support both economic engines. Are you willing to risk an entire species' survival to pull a few sockeye out of the water? Where is the logic in that?

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Robert Barton

Kodiak  
99615



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February 25, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

The OEG is the OEG for a reason. The escapement threshold was set because that is the minimum number of salmon that need to enter the river so that the fishery can rebuild. I am not willing to give up on the Kenai River king salmon. Please vote no on Proposal 283.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous “over escapement” issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Robert Beruve

Anchorage  
Alaska  
99501



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February 16, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Passing Proposal 283 prioritizes a small group of commercial fishing as one third of the set netters would qualify under the proposal. A vote in support of 283 gives a small group fishing preference, further risking the king salmon run in the Kenai River.

The standard should remain that meeting the conservation needs of the weakest stocks is more important than avoiding the upper limit of another species. Passing 283 would indicate that the Board has abandoned weak-stock management principles.

The Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) is a higher threshold intended to not only halt salmon decline but also allow the fishery to recover. The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) is the absolute bare minimum number of fish needed for the species to survive and does nothing to improve the fishery. Ultimately, if Proposal 283 is passed, survival of the king salmon fishery in the Kenai River is further threatened.

Most sportfishers know what needs to be done to protect the Kenai River king salmon. When the escapement numbers are not being achieved, there is zero scientifically valid reason to risk a single king salmon's opportunity to spawn.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Robert Brukardt  
Eagle River  
99577



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February 18, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

I am a sport fisherman and have been fishing in AK since I became a resident in 1999. I remember the king salmon runs to be fabulous and plentiful. My wife and kids and I would look forward to our week long King Salmon fishing and camping trip each year. Some of the best times of our lives. A few years ago, I took my son to a place we often fished (it was catch and release only at this point) and we didn't see or catch anything. He was shocked and asked me what had happened as it was so good back in the day. I do not support giving commercial fishermen more opportunities to catch sockeye salmon as I believe they are mainly responsible for the decline in the once prolific king salmon runs. They have become so efficient at catching fish in the saltwater, that far fewer salmon are making it to the spawning grounds. Please limit the commercial fishing minors we to not further decimate the runs that are at a fraction of what they once were.

The standard should remain that meeting the conservation needs of the weakest stocks is more important than avoiding the upper limit of another species. Passing 283 would indicate that the Board has abandoned weak-stock management principles.

The Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) is a higher threshold intended to not only halt salmon decline but also allow the fishery to recover. The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) is the absolute bare minimum number of fish needed for the species to survive and does nothing to improve the fishery. Ultimately, if Proposal 283 is passed, survival of the king salmon fishery in the Kenai River is further threatened.

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

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Robert Chandler

Chugiak  
99567



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February 15, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

I have sport fished the Kenai river for almost 50 years. As we all know, there will never be another river like it was in the world, but we can try to salvage what's left.

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement fishery management goals.

The Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) is a higher threshold intended to not only halt salmon decline but also allow the fishery to recover. The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) is the absolute bare minimum number of fish needed for the species to survive and does nothing to improve the fishery. Ultimately, if Proposal 283 is passed, survival of the king salmon fishery in the Kenai River is further threatened.

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Robert Estes

STERLING  
99672



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February 27, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

**SAVE THE KENAI KING AT ALL COST!!!!**

The OEG is the OEG for a reason. The escapement threshold was set because that is the minimum number of salmon that need to enter the river so that the fishery can rebuild. I am not willing to give up on the Kenai River king salmon. Please vote no on Proposal 283.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous “over escapement” issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

robert Hall

Kenai  
99611



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March 08, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

To lower the ESCAPEMENT goal is the WORST idea to come out of the Board of FISHERIES in years. The genetics of the KENAI RIVER KINGS, this strain is already destroyed from over fishing, not just from recreational fishing, dip net fishery, but the unwanted waste of BYCATCH in COOK INLET, the BOARD OF FISHERIES thinks about the COMMERCIAL FISHERIES more than trying to rebuild the fisheries as a WHOLE. VOTE NO on PROP 283, SAVE OUR KING SALMON

The economy of the Kenai Peninsula relies on its salmon fisheries. However, the economics point to the sport-caught fisheries being the economic powerhouse, NOT the commercial fishery. Regardless, we need to rebuild the king salmon runs to support both economic engines. Are you willing to risk an entire species' survival to pull a few sockeye out of the water? Where is the logic in that?

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

Most sportfishers know what needs to be done to protect the Kenai River king salmon. When the escapement numbers are not being achieved, there is zero scientifically valid reason to risk a single king salmon's opportunity to spawn.

The standard should remain that meeting the conservation needs of the weakest stocks is more important than avoiding the upper limit of another species. Passing 283 would indicate that the Board has abandoned weak-stock management principles.

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Robert Lesko

Anchorage  
99502





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February 18, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Please vote no on 283. I've been going to Alaska for years fishing. The King fisheries need to be protected in Alaska. The Kenia river King salmon fishery is a skeleton of what it use to be. You've already lost my tourist dollars. I now fish other areas in Alaska for Kings. Please protect the Kenia river King fisheries for recreational fisherman before the crumbs are gone.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Robert Sparre

Fair Oaks  
95628



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February 16, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

I live in Kenai and I am a sport fishing guide on the Kenai River. I have a BA and MS degree in fish and wildlife management.

My livelihood depends on having high quality salmon fishing for my clients. The Kenai River used to be known worldwide for producing huge world record King Salmon. However, all this has changed in the last 10 years when sustainable King Salmon numbers have drastically gone downhill. I voluntarily stopped guiding for King Salmon in 2012 when I realized the mighty Kenai Kings were in serious trouble from overfishing (Sport and Commercial); as well spawning habitat degradation. I continued to guide only for Sockeye and Coho salmon.

During these last 10 years I have witnessed the continual reduction in King Salmon escapement goals and numbers. Sport and commercial Eastside setnet fishing has continued pretty much unabated; with only sporadic closures.

Conservation is the wise use of our natural resources. The Board of Fisheries and Alaska Fish & Game have not used good conservation policies, regulations and rules to protect the ever-dwindling numbers of Kenai Kings. If we are to save the Kenai Kings for future generations, all sport (including catch and release) and commercial fishing targeting Kenai Kings must stop now!

Remember the history of the American Passenger Pigeon. There used to be millions of these great birds; endemic to North America. So many birds, that the skies in the United States would be darkened from the sunlight. Millions were commercially shot and killed east coast markets. There were few, if any, conservation measures instituted. This commercial killing, along with habitat destruction, eventually destroyed every Passenger Pigeon in the United States. The last bird died at the Cincinnati zoo in 1914. They are no more. Extinct now. Never to return to earth.

Without proper drastic conservation measures, I can easily see the same fate coming for the Kenai King Salmon.

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals. Alaska Fish and Game has not adequately protected the Kenai Kings with proactive conservation measures. The sport fishing seasons should have begun with a total closure on sport /commercial fishing until adequate escapement numbers were obtained. Instead, F&G always opened the season to fishing and then would implement a few meaningless closures ONLY after they realized the escapement goals would not be met. This is not conservation. This has led to a constant decline in King Salmon numbers and will eventually lead to extinction of the great Kenai River King Salmon gene pool.

The standard should remain that meeting the conservation needs of the weakest stocks is more important than avoiding the upper limit of another species. Passing 283 would indicate that the Board has abandoned weak-stock management principles.

Passing Proposal 283 prioritizes a small group of commercial fishing as one third of the set netters would qualify under the proposal. A vote in support of 283 gives a small group fishing preference, further risking the king salmon run in the Kenai River.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king



salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous “over escapement” issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

ROBERT STANDISH

Kenai  
99611



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February 24, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

I am a 37 year Alaska resident, living in Eagle River. I spend many days a year fishing the Kenai River for kings, silvers, reds, rainbow trout, and dolly varden. I have witnessed the decline of king salmon stocks throughout south central Alaska over the last 15-20 years. I would like to see recovery of king salmon numbers to something approaching the levels of the 1980's and 1990's so future generations will be able to enjoy the fishing that we had.

The OEG is the OEG for a reason. The escapement threshold was set because that is the minimum number of salmon that need to enter the river so that the fishery can rebuild. I am not willing to give up on the Kenai River king salmon. Please vote no on Proposal 283.

Currently ADF&G cannot reduce fishing restrictions until the OEG is achieved. If passed, Proposal 283 would allow projected escapements to be utilized rather than actual fish in the river. It's literally putting the cart before the horse; commercial fishing will be permitted before sufficient king salmon have actually made it into the river, based on the OEG.

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

Most sportfishers know what needs to be done to protect the Kenai River king salmon. When the escapement numbers are not being achieved, there is zero scientifically valid reason to risk a single king salmon's opportunity to spawn.

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Robert Wallick



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March 07, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Stop commercial fishing

Most sportfishers know what needs to be done to protect the Kenai River king salmon. When the escapement numbers are not being achieved, there is zero scientifically valid reason to risk a single king salmon's opportunity to spawn.

The Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) is a higher threshold intended to not only halt salmon decline but also allow the fishery to recover. The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) is the absolute bare minimum number of fish needed for the species to survive and does nothing to improve the fishery. Ultimately, if Proposal 283 is passed, survival of the king salmon fishery in the Kenai River is further threatened.

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Robert Young

Rochester  
98579



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February 26, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Keep commercial fisheries away from the Kenai River! Greedy humans are taking too much from the Earth.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous “over escapement” issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Robin Chadwick

Ludlow  
05149



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February 15, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

I was born and raised in Alaska. Have fished the Kenai for years. Please vote no on proposal 283.

The standard should remain that meeting the conservation needs of the weakest stocks is more important than avoiding the upper limit of another species. Passing 283 would indicate that the Board has abandoned weak-stock management principles.

Passing Proposal 283 prioritizes a small group of commercial fishing as one third of the set netters would qualify under the proposal. A vote in support of 283 gives a small group fishing preference, further risking the king salmon run in the Kenai River.

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Rodger Ball  
Anchorage  
99503



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February 17, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

I come to the Kenai to fish for Reds, it is CRAZY to let commercial fishermen catch 50,000 Reds in a fishing window & only allow 5,000 to enter the river! I refuse to come up on the low run years (such as this year) when comms will be again destroying runs of fish with no regard for in-river escapement. To let them catch more by passing Prop 283 is a crime! NO on 283!

The Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) is a higher threshold intended to not only halt salmon decline but also allow the fishery to recover. The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) is the absolute bare minimum number of fish needed for the species to survive and does nothing to improve the fishery. Ultimately, if Proposal 283 is passed, survival of the king salmon fishery in the Kenai River is further threatened.

The economy of the Kenai Peninsula relies on its salmon fisheries. However, the economics point to the sport-caught fisheries being the economic powerhouse, NOT the commercial fishery. Regardless, we need to rebuild the king salmon runs to support both economic engines. Are you willing to risk an entire species' survival to pull a few sockeye out of the water? Where is the logic in that?

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Roger Okamoto

Sac  
95828





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February 20, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Please do. Or vote to lower Kenai river King salmon escapement numbers. It is critical to aggressively protect this hatchery.

The OEG is the OEG for a reason. The escapement threshold was set because that is the minimum number of salmon that need to enter the river so that the fishery can rebuild. I am not willing to give up on the Kenai River king salmon. Please vote no on Proposal 283.

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Ron Keck

Sterling  
99672



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March 08, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

I have been in AK my whole life, we need to manage fairly on this issue

The economy of the Kenai Peninsula relies on its salmon fisheries. However, the economics point to the sport-caught fisheries being the economic powerhouse, NOT the commercial fishery. Regardless, we need to rebuild the king salmon runs to support both economic engines. Are you willing to risk an entire species' survival to pull a few sockeye out of the water? Where is the logic in that?

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Ron Perry

Anchorage  
99501



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February 15, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

alaska resident since 1972 kenai river property owner since 1979 mile 15 salmon run acres subdivision. I have watched the decline of the king runs for years and the many times the OEG has been lowered over the years to allow the commercial fishery to continue. the plan as written is a fair one for all the user groups and to lower it any further would be very detrimental to the kings, think of the fish and please do not allow this proposal #283 to pass.

Most sportfishers know what needs to be done to protect the Kenai River king salmon. When the escapement numbers are not being achieved, there is zero scientifically valid reason to risk a single king salmon's opportunity to spawn.

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ron tomblinson

anchorage  
99507



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February 18, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

I live in Charlotte NC and have lived in Anchorage in the past for 12 years. My family has a boat in Seward and have enjoyed fishing in Alaska since the early 80's. It is imperative that this bill #283 is NOT passed. Due to the declining numbers of King Salmon and other species of gamefish. We have seen for just one example in the Homer Halibut fishery the declining numbers of Halibut and big Halibut due to the long liners which indiscriminately catch everything on the sea floor. They have overfished their areas in the Homer area and are pushing into the Seward area and doing the same there. When is enough, enough? If this trend continues we will see an end to once an envy of the World Fisheries in Alaska. I am afraid this will affect the King Salmon species with dire consequences, so please look into your soul and vote No on #283.

The OEG is the OEG for a reason. The escapement threshold was set because that is the minimum number of salmon that need to enter the river so that the fishery can rebuild. I am not willing to give up on the Kenai River king salmon. Please vote no on Proposal 283.

Passing Proposal 283 prioritizes a small group of commercial fishing as one third of the set netters would qualify under the proposal. A vote in support of 283 gives a small group fishing preference, further risking the king salmon run in the Kenai River.

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Ronald Jackson

Charlotte  
28270



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March 01, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

I have lived in Alaska for 49 years as of December 12, 1972. Fairbanks for several years and most of the time in Anchorage and the last 9 years in Sterling. I remember coming to fish the Kenai River every year since 1974, when snagging salmon was the way to catch them. And dip netting in 1981-1982 from the beach fronts in Kenai. I've watched some piss pour management always leaning to the almighty dollar benefiting the commercial and even out of state fishermen. I would sure like to see some good decisions made by this fish board for the citizens of Alaska whom all use our natural resources of salmon for their kitchen tables and freezers. We need a better way to preserve our natural resource then what has happened in the past. What are you afraid to loose. If it has not worked before, make a better decision. Save our icon King Salmon.

The OEG is the OEG for a reason. The escapement threshold was set because that is the minimum number of salmon that need to enter the river so that the fishery can rebuild. I am not willing to give up on the Kenai River king salmon. Please vote no on Proposal 283.

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The Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) is a higher threshold intended to not only halt salmon decline but also allow the fishery to recover. The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) is the absolute bare minimum number of fish needed for the species to survive and does nothing to improve the fishery. Ultimately, if Proposal 283 is passed, survival of the king salmon fishery in the Kenai River is further threatened.

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Ronald Kruckenberg

Sterling  
99672



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February 26, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

I've lived in Ninilchik for over twenty years and all I have seen is the king numbers fall off year after year. It's time to put a stop to it and set more commercial restrictions to protect our kings!

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

The standard should remain that meeting the conservation needs of the weakest stocks is more important than avoiding the upper limit of another species. Passing 283 would indicate that the Board has abandoned weak-stock management principles.

Currently ADF&G cannot reduce fishing restrictions until the OEG is achieved. If passed, Proposal 283 would allow projected escapements to be utilized rather than actual fish in the river. It's literally putting the cart before the horse; commercial fishing will be permitted before sufficient king salmon have actually made it into the river, based on the OEG.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Ronald Lambert

Ninilchik  
99639



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February 20, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Gentlemen, my family and I have fished the Kenai River for 30 years. I have watched the decline of the King run with dismay.

Prioritizing the catch of more Reds by a small number of commercial fishermen does nothing to assist in the recovery of the King run. It will only increase the incidental catch of Kings at a time when every fish counts. The actions the Board took in 2020 were a step in the right direction in the recovery King run. Please vote No on Proposal 283 and continue the effort to restore a great fishery.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous “over escapement” issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Ronald Lee

Anchorage  
99504



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February 24, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

The standard should remain that meeting the conservation needs of the weakest stocks is more important than avoiding the upper limit of another species. Passing 283 would indicate that the Board has abandoned weak-stock management principles.

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

Most sportfishers know what needs to be done to protect the Kenai River king salmon. When the escapement numbers are not being achieved, there is zero scientifically valid reason to risk a single king salmon's opportunity to spawn.

Currently ADF&G cannot reduce fishing restrictions until the OEG is achieved. If passed, Proposal 283 would allow projected escapements to be utilized rather than actual fish in the river. It's literally putting the cart before the horse; commercial fishing will be permitted before sufficient king salmon have actually made it into the river, based on the OEG.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

RONALD MCKAY

KENAI  
99611





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February 17, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

The Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) is a higher threshold intended to not only halt salmon decline but also allow the fishery to recover. The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) is the absolute bare minimum number of fish needed for the species to survive and does nothing to improve the fishery. Ultimately, if Proposal 283 is passed, survival of the king salmon fishery in the Kenai River is further threatened.

The economy of the Kenai Peninsula relies on its salmon fisheries. However, the economics point to the sport-caught fisheries being the economic powerhouse, NOT the commercial fishery. Regardless, we need to rebuild the king salmon runs to support both economic engines. Are you willing to risk an entire species' survival to pull a few sockeye out of the water? Where is the logic in that?

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Ronald Meredith

Chambersburg  
17202



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February 20, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

36 yr Alaskan resident. Kenai river property owner. Fish heavily in Kenai river.  
Degree in zoology-wildlife mgmt from UC Berkeley. Chairman of Kenai peninsula borough LEPC,  
local emergency planning committee.  
Member of Kenai river special management area advisory board.

Most sportfishers know what needs to be done to protect the Kenai River king salmon. When the escapement numbers are not being achieved, there is zero scientifically valid reason to risk a single king salmon's opportunity to spawn.

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

The Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) is a higher threshold intended to not only halt salmon decline but also allow the fishery to recover. The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) is the absolute bare minimum number of fish needed for the species to survive and does nothing to improve the fishery. Ultimately, if Proposal 283 is passed, survival of the king salmon fishery in the Kenai River is further threatened.

Passing Proposal 283 prioritizes a small group of commercial fishing as one third of the set netters would qualify under the proposal. A vote in support of 283 gives a small group fishing preference, further risking the king salmon run in the Kenai River.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Ronald Rogalsky

Kenai  
99611



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March 10, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

The standard should remain that meeting the conservation needs of the weakest stocks is more important than avoiding the upper limit of another species. Passing 283 would indicate that the Board has abandoned weak-stock management principles.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous “over escapement” issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Ronald Shields  
Bristow, VA 20136  
Bristow  
20136



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February 15, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

I have lived here on the Peninsula now for the past ten years. The king numbers have declined every year reducing the escapement goals is not at all responsible management. Please vote NO on 283

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Ronald Zahacefski



Alaska Board of Fisheries  
Board Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

March 10, 2022

Subject: Support Proposal 282

Dear Alaska Board of Fisheries,

I am from Chignik Bay and have fished with my Dad since I was a little kid. Everyone in Chignik is dependent on salmon fishing. Our salmon runs are essential for subsistence and commercial fishing. Our economy is built on our two sockeye runs, which have gone from historically strong to historically weak - especially the early run, which has not even reached the lower end of its escapement goal since 2017.

Proposal 282 is important to Chignik as it calls for the Shumagins and Dolgoi fishing areas to assist in our early run reaching its escapement goal. I think it's reasonable because we have 55 years' worth of data that has consistently shown Chignik-bound sockeye are caught in those areas, our early run has not reached the lower end of escapement goals since 2017, and thus far the burden of conservation has been shouldered solely by Chignik while Chignik-bound sockeye continue to be harvested in Area M.

While Chignik communities have small representation, we need you to help protect our sockeye run. Please make conservation of our early sockeye run a priority by passing proposal 282.

Thank you,

*Ronan Kopun*



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February 19, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

I live in Soldotna for almost 20 years now, serve on the KRSA board and have a passion to keep our rivers filled with fish long after I'm gone., balanced management will accomplish this for generations to come.

Currently ADF&G cannot reduce fishing restrictions until the OEG is achieved. If passed, Proposal 283 would allow projected escapements to be utilized rather than actual fish in the river. It's literally putting the cart before the horse; commercial fishing will be permitted before sufficient king salmon have actually made it into the river, based on the OEG.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Ross Baxter

Soldotna  
99669



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February 16, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

I appose lowering the escapement of King Salmon. I have lived in Alaska 60 years and have watched The king Salmon destroyed. Please do not pass amendment 283Keep the escapement were it is.

The OEG is the OEG for a reason. The escapement threshold was set because that is the minimum number of salmon that need to enter the river so that the fishery can rebuild. I am not willing to give up on the Kenai River king salmon. Please vote no on Proposal 283.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous “over escapement” issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Ross Harding

Kenai  
99611



Submitted By  
Roy howard  
Submitted On  
3/10/2022 3:56:45 PM  
Affiliation  
  
Phone  
9072232251  
Email  
[Gi5ces@aol.com](mailto:Gi5ces@aol.com)  
Address  
2613 Kelsan circle  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

So I am concerned about the direction of management in Prince William sound and would encourage you to continue the allowance for small commercial fisherman in this area.Sound shrimp.

In past yearsWith respect to your management of the Prince William sound shrimp fishery. I am concerned about the curtailing of the small fisheries commercial operation and the management of that. There are many of us who are unable or cannot afford to have personal craft that we can do our own shrimp fishery and so we depend upon the commercial fisherman for our supply of Prince William Sound shrimp.

With regards to management of fisheries, I recall a lecture at the University of Alaska in the 1970s reporting on the Prince William sound fishery and also the Kachemak Bay fishery for crab and shrimp. To this day we have not been allowed to put pots out in Kachemak Bay. So I am concerned about the direction of management in Prince William sound and would encourage you to continue the allowance for small commercial fisherman in this area.





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February 17, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

I have fished the Kenai & Kasilof rivers on my visits to Alaska & have retained a few salmon to eat but normally do catch & release. Please help the Kenai recover from over fishing.

Currently ADF&G cannot reduce fishing restrictions until the OEG is achieved. If passed, Proposal 283 would allow projected escapements to be utilized rather than actual fish in the river. It's literally putting the cart before the horse; commercial fishing will be permitted before sufficient king salmon have actually made it into the river, based on the OEG.

The Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) is a higher threshold intended to not only halt salmon decline but also allow the fishery to recover. The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) is the absolute bare minimum number of fish needed for the species to survive and does nothing to improve the fishery. Ultimately, if Proposal 283 is passed, survival of the king salmon fishery in the Kenai River is further threatened.

Most sportfishers know what needs to be done to protect the Kenai River king salmon. When the escapement numbers are not being achieved, there is zero scientifically valid reason to risk a single king salmon's opportunity to spawn.

Passing Proposal 283 prioritizes a small group of commercial fishing as one third of the set netters would qualify under the proposal. A vote in support of 283 gives a small group fishing preference, further risking the king salmon run in the Kenai River.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

russell mcburney

Monterey  
93940



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March 08, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

The OEG is the OEG for a reason. The escapement threshold was set because that is the minimum number of salmon that need to enter the river so that the fishery can rebuild. I am not willing to give up on the Kenai River king salmon. Please vote no on Proposal 283.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous “over escapement” issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Ryan Howlett

Soldotna  
99669



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March 01, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Local Resident and long time user of the kenai river

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous “over escapement” issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Ryan Hughes

Soldotna  
99669



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February 24, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

I've lived and hunted in Alaska for over 25 yrs. I'm a retired veteran, small business owner and an Airline Pilot. Currently I see our fishery going away in what I feel is the boards interest to promote commercial fisheries over private. The numbers of fish returning are lower yet the board gives commercial operations a higher percentage of the escapement quota to the commercial fleet. With a dwindling harvest I wonder how many members of the board are on the payroll of the commercial fisheries and are not representing the residents of this state.

The economy of the Kenai Peninsula relies on its salmon fisheries. However, the economics point to the sport-caught fisheries being the economic powerhouse, NOT the commercial fishery. Regardless, we need to rebuild the king salmon runs to support both economic engines. Are you willing to risk an entire species' survival to pull a few sockeye out of the water? Where is the logic in that?

The OEG is the OEG for a reason. The escapement threshold was set because that is the minimum number of salmon that need to enter the river so that the fishery can rebuild. I am not willing to give up on the Kenai River king salmon. Please vote no on Proposal 283.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Ryan King

Fairbanks  
99712



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February 16, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Ryan Morse

Anchorage  
99516



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March 08, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

The OEG is the OEG for a reason. The escapement threshold was set because that is the minimum number of salmon that need to enter the river so that the fishery can rebuild. I am not willing to give up on the Kenai River king salmon. Please vote no on Proposal 283.

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Ryan Nykamp

Anchorage  
99507



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February 15, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Please vote no on 238, the bar is already lower than it should be.

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

Passing Proposal 283 prioritizes a small group of commercial fishing as one third of the set netters would qualify under the proposal. A vote in support of 283 gives a small group fishing preference, further risking the king salmon run in the Kenai River.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Ryan Sexton

Meridian  
83646



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February 16, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Passing Proposal 283 prioritizes a small group of commercial fishing as one third of the set netters would qualify under the proposal. A vote in support of 283 gives a small group fishing preference, further risking the king salmon run in the Kenai River.

Most sportfishers know what needs to be done to protect the Kenai River king salmon. When the escapement numbers are not being achieved, there is zero scientifically valid reason to risk a single king salmon's opportunity to spawn.

The Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) is a higher threshold intended to not only halt salmon decline but also allow the fishery to recover. The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) is the absolute bare minimum number of fish needed for the species to survive and does nothing to improve the fishery. Ultimately, if Proposal 283 is passed, survival of the king salmon fishery in the Kenai River is further threatened.

The economy of the Kenai Peninsula relies on its salmon fisheries. However, the economics point to the sport-caught fisheries being the economic powerhouse, NOT the commercial fishery. Regardless, we need to rebuild the king salmon runs to support both economic engines. Are you willing to risk an entire species' survival to pull a few sockeye out of the water? Where is the logic in that?

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Samuel Eckhardt





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February 17, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

The Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) is a higher threshold intended to not only halt salmon decline but also allow the fishery to recover. The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) is the absolute bare minimum number of fish needed for the species to survive and does nothing to improve the fishery. Ultimately, if Proposal 283 is passed, survival of the king salmon fishery in the Kenai River is further threatened.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous “over escapement” issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

SANDRA BARCLAY

Haines  
99827



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February 22, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

I live in California and have been fishing in the summer months in Alaska for the past 35 years and I am appalled at the fishery mismanagement! I want the king salmon to survive in this river and that, right now, is not possible without some immediate action.

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

The standard should remain that meeting the conservation needs of the weakest stocks is more important than avoiding the upper limit of another species. Passing 283 would indicate that the Board has abandoned weak-stock management principles.

Currently ADF&G cannot reduce fishing restrictions until the OEG is achieved. If passed, Proposal 283 would allow projected escapements to be utilized rather than actual fish in the river. It's literally putting the cart before the horse; commercial fishing will be permitted before sufficient king salmon have actually made it into the river, based on the OEG.

The economy of the Kenai Peninsula relies on its salmon fisheries. However, the economics point to the sport-caught fisheries being the economic powerhouse, NOT the commercial fishery. Regardless, we need to rebuild the king salmon runs to support both economic engines. Are you willing to risk an entire species' survival to pull a few sockeye out of the water? Where is the logic in that?

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Sandra Ring

Discovery Bay  
94505



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February 16, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Sara Hansen  
Bluffdale  
84065



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February 16, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Absolutely NO!!!! As a resident of the peninsula this is a slap in the face!! Stop ALLOWING COMMERCIAL FISHING in COOK INLET to DECIMATE KING SALMON!!!

The economy of the Kenai Peninsula relies on its salmon fisheries. However, the economics point to the sport-caught fisheries being the economic powerhouse, NOT the commercial fishery. Regardless, we need to rebuild the king salmon runs to support both economic engines. Are you willing to risk an entire species' survival to pull a few sockeye out of the water? Where is the logic in that?

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Savage Ditmore  
Sterling  
99672



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March 12, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

I am a lifelong Alaskan and registered nurse who occasionally sportfishes the Kenai River on years when we need fish in our freezer for our immediate family.

Passing Proposal 283 prioritizes a small group of commercial fishing as one third of the set netters would qualify under the proposal. A vote in support of 283 gives a small group fishing preference, further risking the king salmon run in the Kenai River. Not to mention, many of these commercial fishing vessels are taking resources outside of Alaska.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous “over escapement” issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Savannah Courtright

Eagle River  
99577



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February 15, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Live in Seattle however make seasonal trips to the Kenai targeting specifically kings. Seems this approach would impact the king fishery significantly as nets are non-discriminatory. Opposed to Prop 283

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Scott Bender



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March 01, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

I've fished the Kenai River for Kenai Kings for close to 30 years. I have watched the King fishery substantially decline. We are getting close to the point of no return. Very sad to watch a special fishery go away. Please say no to Proposal 283. It's important that every king makes it back in river to save this fishery. Thanks for your time.

The Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) is a higher threshold intended to not only halt salmon decline but also allow the fishery to recover. The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) is the absolute bare minimum number of fish needed for the species to survive and does nothing to improve the fishery. Ultimately, if Proposal 283 is passed, survival of the king salmon fishery in the Kenai River is further threatened.

Passing Proposal 283 prioritizes a small group of commercial fishing as one third of the set netters would qualify under the proposal. A vote in support of 283 gives a small group fishing preference, further risking the king salmon run in the Kenai River.

The standard should remain that meeting the conservation needs of the weakest stocks is more important than avoiding the upper limit of another species. Passing 283 would indicate that the Board has abandoned weak-stock management principles.

The OEG is the OEG for a reason. The escapement threshold was set because that is the minimum number of salmon that need to enter the river so that the fishery can rebuild. I am not willing to give up on the Kenai River king salmon. Please vote no on Proposal 283.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Scott Blahnik



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February 15, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

26 Year Alaskan resident and landowner on the Kenai river since 1999. I have seen and experienced the rapid decline of a world class king fishery to include most king spawning rivers throughout Cook inlet. 283 does nothing to benefit future generations of Alaskans, commercial or sportsman. No on 283!

The OEG is the OEG for a reason. The escapement threshold was set because that is the minimum number of salmon that need to enter the river so that the fishery can rebuild. I am not willing to give up on the Kenai River king salmon. Please vote no on Proposal 283.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous “over escapement” issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Scott Coniglio

Anchorage  
99517





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February 15, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

I'm a Soldotna Local and live work and fish here. You don't lower a goal because you can't reach it. This philosophy will destroy the very last king. We expect when you set a goal you achieve it or work towards it, imagine telling us the general public that we should lower our financial goals, just pay half your mortgage, half your taxes, half your bills.

Most sportfishers know what needs to be done to protect the Kenai River king salmon. When the escapement numbers are not being achieved, there is zero scientifically valid reason to risk a single king salmon's opportunity to spawn.

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

The Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) is a higher threshold intended to not only halt salmon decline but also allow the fishery to recover. The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) is the absolute bare minimum number of fish needed for the species to survive and does nothing to improve the fishery. Ultimately, if Proposal 283 is passed, survival of the king salmon fishery in the Kenai River is further threatened.

The standard should remain that meeting the conservation needs of the weakest stocks is more important than avoiding the upper limit of another species. Passing 283 would indicate that the Board has abandoned weak-stock management principles.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Scott Daletas

Soldotna  
99669



Submitted By  
Scott Thorne  
Submitted On  
3/9/2022 8:00:46 PM  
Affiliation

RE: 282

My name is Scott Thorne. I am a seine permit holder in Area M and have participated in the seine fishery since 1989 both as a skipper and crew member. I also have been fishing blackcod, halibut, cod and pollock out of Sand Point since 1989 and though not a resident, I consider Sand Point somewhat of second home for me and feel very connected to this community.

I am very much against this proposal. My main concern with Proposal 282 is that, as stated in the proposal text, its intent is to "link fishing time in the Shumagin Islands and Dolgoi Island areas to sockeye salmon escapement to the Chignik River." This intent is contrary to the most recently generated science. The data from the WASSIP study from 2006-2008 illustrates this stating that the harvest impact of early-run Chignik sockeye from the Shumagin Islands fishery ranges from a low of 3.7% to 7%, a level which the board has previously determined, in an earlier finding, to not present a conservation or allocation concern. The Dolgoi Island area, with a slightly higher harvest impact, has already been significantly restricted.

Additionally, recent action taken by the board to limit Area M harvest in an effort to increase returns to the Chignik system have been shown to have no corollary effect. In 2018 and 2020, the Shumagin Island and Dolgoi Island areas were further restricted by emergency order in an attempt to increase returns to Chignik yet this corresponded with a significant drop in the early-run size.

Proposal 282, as it is written, has the potential to reduce fishing time for seiners in the Shumagin Islands by 40% in the June fishery and almost 50% in the post-June fishery. These are obviously massive reductions in fishing time. I think most Area M salmon fisherman would attest that the fishery, currently, is very hit or miss. Reductions like this would render this fishery non-viable, not to mention the negative impacts to all of the communities of this area, which are completely reliant on fishing as an economic and social driver.

My desire is for the board to not be pressured to make any changes whatsoever until the 2023 meeting cycle when Chignik and Area M are scheduled for evaluation together. At the 2023 meeting, more data from both fisheries can be evaluated as well as other sources of potentially negative influence such as warming ocean conditions that correlate to poor return years and an evaluation of the Chignik watershed as regards to spawning habitat, out-migration, etc.

I am truly sympathetic to Chignik fisherman but think that it's important to say that proximity alone to an ailing salmon fishery does not prove culpability.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment,

Scott Thorne



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March 11, 2022

Dear Board of Fish,

Please no kill on king salmon. We've destroyed most of Alaska's returning king salmon with over harvest.

Passing Proposal 283 prioritizes a small group of commercial fishing as one third of the set netters would qualify under the proposal. A vote in support of 283 gives a small group fishing preference, further risking the king salmon run in the Kenai River.

The OEG is the OEG for a reason. The escapement threshold was set because that is the minimum number of salmon that need to enter the river so that the fishery can rebuild. I am not willing to give up on the Kenai River king salmon. Please vote no on Proposal 283.

The economy of the Kenai Peninsula relies on its salmon fisheries. However, the economics point to the sport-caught fisheries being the economic powerhouse, NOT the commercial fishery. Regardless, we need to rebuild the king salmon runs to support both economic engines. Are you willing to risk an entire species' survival to pull a few sockeye out of the water? Where is the logic in that?

Kenai River king salmon have not been meeting spawning objectives for years, and Proposal 283 potentially allows the commercial harvest of kings when we haven't clearly met the lower escapement goals.

I thank the Board for the historic actions taken in 2020 to protect the Late Run Kenai River king salmon. Modifications like 283 threaten those protections and is the first step in a slippery slope to lighten the burden of conservation for some users, while maintaining restrictions on others. It disregards the principles of weak stock management and overemphasizes tenuous "over escapement" issues. Finally, this proposal promotes the financial interests of a few entities over the clear need to conserve a species. I oppose Proposal 283 and ask the Board of Fisheries to vote No on this proposal. Stay the course and protect the kings.

Scott Weedman

Sammamish  
97074